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State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

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HUMAN RESOURCES MEMORANDUM NO. 04-040

August 2, 2004

TO: Lt. Governor, Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Program Managers

FROM: **Mary V. Gloston**
Human Resources Director

SUBJECT: LASERS "Air Time" Bill and Early Retirement Act

The following legislative acts were passed in the 2004 Regular Legislative Session and signed by Governor Blanco as it pertains to employees with membership in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Act 340, known as the "Air Time" bill allows a LASERS member with service credit of at least one (1) year to purchase credit for up to five (5) years of service in one (1) year increments by paying in a lump sum the cost calculated as actuarial liability. Deferred Compensation savings may be used to purchase this service. **The \$100 payment to the actuary to calculate the benefit is required.** For additional information on purchasing service, contact LASERS at 225-922-0600 or toll free at 800-256-3000. Additional information may also be found at <http://www.lasers.state.la.us>. To complete the necessary documents for this process, contact Human Resources at 342-0880.

Act 194, Early Retirement act, allows a member who has attained at least age 50 and who has at least 10 years of service credit to retire with an actuarially reduced benefit. The law became effective June 14, 2004 through December 31, 2006 and was established for payroll reduction purposes. The following should be noted:

MEMBERS

- A member retiring during this time period under Act 194 may not return to state service for two (2) years. In the event the retiree attempts to return to work prior to the two (2) year period, their membership application will be returned to the agency with a notice that they are not eligible for state employment under Act 194.
- Members who retire early ***cannot*** participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) or the Initial Benefit Option (IBO).

AGENCY

- When the position becomes vacated as a result of early retirement under this act, the position will be abolished.
- To fill positions vacated as a result of early retirement, the agency must obtain approval from the Judicial Budgetary Control Board, Legislative Budgetary Control Council and the Director of Civil Service.

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Additional information pertaining to benefits and calculations may be obtained by contacting LASERS at 225-922-0600 or toll free at 800-256-3000. Interested employees may obtain appropriate forms (retirement package) from Human Resources. Questions regarding the abolishment or use of vacant positions impacted by Act 194 should be directed to Mary V. Gloston, Human Resources at 342-0880.

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